

REMARKS

I. Formal Matters. Claims 1-18 are currently pending in this application.

II. Claims. The Examiner rejects claims 1-18 as being allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,638,421 to *Serrano et al.* (“*Serrano*”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,583,579 to *Tsumura* under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection in view of the following remarks.

Independent claim 1. The Examiner asserts that *Tsumura* (citing col. 3, lines 1-16) discloses a controller that “limits” current to be supplied to a light-emitting unit when a specific functional part is in operation (OA pages 2-3, bridging paragraph). However, *Tsumura* discloses “...control means for temporarily stopping the driving of the backlighting element...when a [second] device portion is adversely affected by noise generated by operation of the backlighting element...” (col. 3, lines 3-13). *Tsumara* discloses intermittently driving the backlighting element (col. 2, lines 54-58; and col. 7, lines 11-12). Further, the Examiner acknowledges that *Tsumara* discloses disabling of the backlighting element (*referring to conservation of power consumption*, OA page 3, 2nd full paragraph). Both in the text cited by the Examiner, and in *Tsumara* at large, *Tsumara* discloses intermittent driving of the light-emitting unit.

In contrast, Applicant claims “...a controller which limits the current to be supplied to said light-emitting unit when said...specific function part...is in operation” (claim 1). Applicant

limits the current to be supplied to the light-emitting unit when a specific function part is in operation. Limiting the current to be supplied to an electronic device, e.g., a light-emitting unit, is readily recognized by those ordinarily skilled in the art to be distinct from intermittent driving of the electronic device.¹ Applicant's specification discloses an invention of continuous driving of the light-emitting unit at a reduced current, as opposed to applying an intermittent or periodic light-emitting driving current, which Applicant discloses as related art (page 3, lines 12-15). Reduced power consumption is achieved by Applicant's invention by limiting the current supplied to the light-emitting unit (page 8, lines 17-23), as opposed to reducing the time that driving current is supplied. Additionally, continuous versus intermittent operation, in this case supplying driving current, is readily recognized as distinct by the population at large.² Neither *Serrano* nor *Tsumara*, or their combination, teaches or suggests limiting the current supplied to a light-emitting unit. At least for failing to teach or suggest, individually or in combination, limiting the current supplied to a light-emitting unit, the alleged obviousness rejection of claim 1 over *Serrano* in view of *Tsumura* under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

¹ "The characteristics of the devices – battery power versus line power, continuous versus intermittent operation..." *November - December 2003 INSIGHT*
www.idema.org/_smartsite/modules/local/data_file/show_file.php?cmd=download&data_file_id=1026

² Definition of intermittent: stopping and starting at irregular intervals; periodic. www.cogsci.princeton.edu/cgi-bin/webwn; definition of continuous: a continuous line has no gaps or breaks in it; a continuous current of electricity. [http:// dict.die.net/continuous/](http://dict.die.net/continuous/)

Independent claims 5 and 7 also contain the element of limiting the current to be supplied to the light-emitting unit. Accordingly, the remarks asserted for the traversal for claim 1, above, are hereby asserted for claims 5 and 7. At least for failing to teach or suggest, individually or in combination, limiting the current supplied to a light-emitting unit, the alleged obviousness rejection of claims 5 and 7 over *Serrano* in view of *Tsumura* under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

Independent claims 3, 9 and 11. *Tsumura* discloses different modes of driving the light display. First, *Tsumura* discloses intermittently driving the backlighting element as a whole (col. 2, lines 54-58; and col. 7, lines 11-12). Second, *Tsumura* discloses selectively lighting some display segments of the entire display, where selection corresponds to the location of data on the display (col. 10, lines 34-39). This mode of driving the lighted display is independent of the operation of another functional part. Further, this mode of driving the lighted display is controlled only by the location of data to be displayed (col. 10, lines 8-55).

In contrast, Applicant claims a device controlling the number of a plurality of light-emitting units to be turned on *when* operation of a specific functional part of the device is detected (claims 3, 9 and 11). Neither *Serrano* nor *Tsumura*, or their combination, teaches or suggests a device controlling the number of a plurality of display light-emitting units to be turned on when a specific functional part is in operation. At least for failing, individually or in combination, to teach or suggest a device controlling the number of a plurality of display light-emitting units to be turned on when operation of a specific functional part of the device is

detected, the alleged obviousness rejection of claims 3, 9 and 11 over *Serrano* in view of *Tsumura* under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

At least for depending from an allowable independent claim, dependent claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 are asserted to be in condition for allowance.

Method claims 13, 15 and 16 contain the element of limiting the current supplied to a light-emitting unit of claims 1, 5 and 7. Accordingly, the remarks asserted for the traversal of the alleged obviousness of claim 1 are hereby asserted for claims 13, 15 and 16. Neither *Serrano* nor *Tsumara*, or their combination, teaches or suggests limiting the current supplied to a light-emitting unit. At least for failing to teach or suggest, individually or in combination, limiting the current supplied to a light-emitting unit, the alleged obviousness rejection of claims 13, 15 and 16 over *Serrano* in view of *Tsumura* under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

Method claims 14, 17 and 18 contain the element of a device controlling the number of a plurality of light-emitting units to be turned on when a specific functional part of the device is detected to be in operation (as in claims 3, 9 and 11). Therefore, the remarks above traversing the alleged obviousness of claims 3, 9 and 11 are hereby asserted in traversal of the rejection of claims 14, 17 and 18. Neither *Serrano* nor *Tsumara*, or their combination, teaches or suggests a device controlling the number of a plurality of display light-emitting units to be turned on when a specific functional part is detected to be in operation. At least for failing, individually or in combination, to teach or suggest a device controlling the number of a plurality of display light-

emitting units to be turned on when a specific functional part is in operation, the alleged obviousness rejection of claims 14, 17 and 18 over *Serrano* in view of *Tsumura* under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue/Publication Fee) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

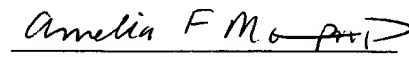
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Date: March 17, 2005